

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 2, 4-30, 39, 42-49, 81-87, 96-99, and 109-119, and objected to claims 93, 102 and 122.

The Examiner also rejected claims 88-90, 92, 94, 95, 100, 101, 120 and 121 under 35USC 102(b).

Claims 88, 93 and 100 have been amended, and claims 102 and 122 have been cancelled in order to place the application in a condition for allowance. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-30, 39-49, 81-90, 92-101, and 109-121 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 88-90, 92 and 94-95 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Vessa* (US 5,008,870).

Claims 100-101 and 120-121 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Koch* (US 4,789,774).

The rejections are moot based on the amendments made above. Particularly, the limitations of allowed dependent claim 122 have been added to independent claim 88, the limitations of independent claim 88 have been added to allowed dependent claim 93, and the limitations of allowed dependent claim 102 have been added to independent claim 100. Claims 88, 93 and 100 (as well as their dependents) are therefore allowable as the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in the previous Action.

The amendments have been made to expedite the prosecution of this case. The Applicant still believes that the outstanding rejections are unsupported by the art and therefore reserves the right to go after the previous claims in a continuing application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Quin C. Hoellwarth
Reg. No. 45,738

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
(650) 961-8300